

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
ANDERSON/GREENWOOD DIVISION

United States of America,)	C/A No.: 8:97-cr-170-4
)	
v.)	
)	
James Edward Brown,)	ORDER
)	(Written Opinion)
Defendant.)	
)	
_____)	

18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2) Order for Sentence Reduction

This matter comes before the Court on the defendant's motion for a reduction in the term of imprisonment imposed based on a guideline sentencing range that has subsequently been lowered and made retroactive by the United States Sentencing Commission (the Commission) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 994(u).

Background

The defendant's motion is based on Amendment 706 to the United States Sentencing Guideline (U.S.S.G.) § 2D1.1(c). This amendment adjusts the base offense level assigned to each threshold quantity of cocaine base, or "crack cocaine," downward by two levels. U.S.S.G. App. C, Amend. 706 (Nov. 1, 2007). On December 11, 2007, the Commission voted to add this amendment to the list of amendments in U.S.S.G. § 1B1.10(c) that may be applied retroactively. As this amendment became effective on March 3, 2008, this matter is now ready for disposition.

Discussion

The defendant was last sentenced on December 18, 1997, with the following sentencing range:

Total Offense Level:	<u>33</u>
Criminal History Category:	<u>IV</u>
Months Imprisonment:	<u>188-235</u>

Regardless of these guidelines, the Court sentenced the defendant to 240 months, the statutory minimum for the crimes he plead guilty to. The defendant's sentence was not reduced pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1, Rule 35, or a variance under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), and it was rendered before the Supreme Court's decision in *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005).

After taking into account the amendments to § § 1B.10 & 2D1.10, the Court finds that the amended sentencing range should be:

Total Offense Level:	<u>31</u>
Criminal History Category:	<u>IV</u>
Months Imprisonment:	<u>151-188</u>

However, the statutory minimum is still 240 months. This Court will not consider any guideline decision from the previous sentencing that was unaffected by the recent amendment. U.S.S.G. § 1B1.10(b)(1).

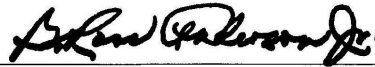
Conclusion

Having calculated and considered the revised sentencing guidelines, specifically

the provisions of §§ 2D1.1(c) and 1B1.10, effective March 3, 2008, and having also considered the relevant statutory sentencing factors contained in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) and the advisory nature of the Sentencing Guidelines, the defendant's motion is DENIED because the statutory minimum for the crimes the defendant pled guilty to is greater than the revised guideline range.

IT IS THEREFORE SO ORDERED THAT the defendant's motion be DENIED.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



G. ROSS ANDERSON, JR.
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

March 27, 2008
Anderson, South Carolina

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Pursuant to Rules 3 and 4 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, the parties have the right to appeal this Order within sixty (60) days from the date of its entry. Failure to meet this deadline, as modified by Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, **will waive the right to appeal.**